110TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. RES. 218

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require that, as of the date of adoption of this resolution, a proportional distribution of committee seats, staff, and financial resources be made.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 7, 2007

Mr. Issa submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTION

- Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require that, as of the date of adoption of this resolution, a proportional distribution of committee seats, staff, and financial resources be made.
- Whereas the Constitution provides for citizens of the several states to be equally represented in the House of Representatives;
- Whereas the Constitution provides for each citizen to receive equal protection of the laws;
- Whereas the majority of substantive lawmaking in the House of Representatives occurs through the Committee process;
- Whereas the access to financial and staff resources in the legislative process equates to the ability to collect and analyze information essential to lawmaking; and

- Whereas the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in Buckley v. Valeo that expenditure of financial resources was so essential to the exercise of free speech that the protections of the first amendment must apply to expenditure of financial resources: Now, therefore, be it
 - 1 Resolved, That (a) the Rules of the House of Rep-
 - 2 resentatives are amended by redesignating rule XXVIII as
 - 3 rule XXIX and by adding after rule XXVII the following
 - 4 new rule:
 - 5 "RULE XXVIII
 - 6 "PROPORTIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF COMMITTEE SEATS,
 - 7 STAFF, AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES
 - 8 "1. Notwithstanding any provision of these rules, for
 - 9 each Congress the ratio of majority party to minority
- 10 party members of each committee, the ratio of majority
- 11 party staff to minority party staff of each committee, and
- 12 the ratio of funds made available for majority party staff
- 13 salary and expense accounts to minority party staff salary
- 14 and expense accounts of each committee shall be the same
- 15 as the ratio of majority party membership to minority
- 16 party membership of the House at the beginning of that
- 17 Congress.
- 18 "2. Clause 1 shall apply to all standing, select, spe-
- 19 cial, ad hoc, and other committees of the House except
- 20 the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.".

- 1 (b) This resolution may be cited as the "American
- 2 Citizens Equal Representation Rule".

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